

the duty assessed and paid (see Chapter XIII) the papers (oath, bond and affidavit—and if the case is an administration with will annexed—the original will) are lodged at the Probate Registry and the fees paid, and in the course of the next 4 or 5 days, if the matter is in order, the Probate Registry will issue a grant of letters of administration in favour of the person named in the oath—duly

signed and sealed. This document is the legal authority which empowers the administrator to take the necessary steps to get in the estate, sell the whole or any part of it which does not consist of money, pay the debts and funeral expenses and costs, and distribute the residue amongst the persons entitled to share in the estate.

To ensure the speedy registration of the Letters of Administration with Companies, etc., the Probate Registry will issue any number of sealed copies of the grant at one shilling each.

While it is the duty of an administrator to wind up the estate with all reasonable speed, he is himself the person to decide whether or not to sell or retain in hand any property. It will be obvious that while in ordinary cases it is desirable and proper to sell the land or goods or stocks and shares of the intestate, there may be many cases where it is in the best interests of the estate to

postpone
such sale—there may be a slump, for
example, in
the share market, or there may be a
reasonable
probability that the land to be sold will
appreciate
in value in the next year or two and
thus produce
a much greater financial result for the
ultimate
beneficiaries.

If there is any point on which an
administrator
requires expert legal advice he is
perfectly justified